



ASNA Newsletter



April 2009

From the President

IMPORTANT DATES

ASNA Board Meeting
May 21, 2009
4-5pm- ANA office

NASN Annual
Conference: Boston
June 25-28, 2009

I am so excited to be in the final stretch of the school year. It seems like it has been a long year but hopefully this last quarter will go by quickly. It is nice to know that it will be green and beautiful out very soon.

We recently had our annual ASNA spring conference, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked so hard to make it such a wonderful event. Kudos to every one of you. The speakers were awesome, the silent auction was fantastic, the location was fun and the time with colleagues was priceless. Thank you, thank you, thank you. This has been a very busy year for the board, and some really neat things have come out of it.

One of the most valuable accomplishments of many hours of hard work by our director, Chris Vancleve, was the hiring of Alaska's first School Nurse Consultant. This honor went to Mary Ferguson-Bell of Homer. We are looking forward to working with her very soon. Congratulations, Mary!

This summer the NASN summer conference will be in Boston, June 25-28. I would like to encourage each one of you to attend. This annual event is always exciting and full of fun, but more importantly it comes with a great deal of current information for school nurses. If you are unable to make it this year then start planning to go to Chicago next summer. You won't regret it.

I would like to thank the members of the ASNA board for being such a wonderful group to work with. I appreciate all of the hard work that you do and the time you put into the association. I am going to miss being your president but it is time to let someone else have the chance to lead. Chris, you are going to be truly missed. You have done an amazing job for the association and it is nice to know that you are only a phone call away. I hope you enjoy all the freedom that you are about to have...put it to good use and take great care of yourself. Annette, Luann and Jennifer - you guys rock! Keep up the good work.

Have a wonderful rest of the school year and an even better summer!!

Patricia Barker. RN

From the Vice President

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone who donated items to the ASNA Spring Conference Silent Auction. The Silent Auction was tremendously successful and it was because of your generosity! If you donated items and did not get a "Tax ID Receipt", please let me know and I will send you one.

School nurses from all over Alaska donated items. Some of the items included: six "theme" baskets (a wine basket, a gardening basket -- including a one hour consultation with a Master Gardener, a bath & body basket, a family movie night basket, a tea basket and a coffee basket). Other items included: two overnight "Nancy Lake Retreats", a Majestic Mountain one night stay (including meals), a wilderness cabin overnight stay, a "Coach" bag, art prints, nurse scrubs, handmade felted hats, fine sterling silver jewelry, nurse pins, hand made quilts, designer sunglasses, backpacks, rolling bags, an ice cream maker, table runners, candles, books, garden art and more and more! We also had donations from Skinny Raven, The Women's Sport Shop, Dos Manos, The Peddler's Window and Great Harvest Bread Company!

I also want to thank Barbara Pennington and Cyndi Hendel for being a part of the Silent Auction committee. Barb and Cyndi's help was vital for the success of this year's Silent Auction. The saying, "many hands make little work" is really true. The success of the Silent Auction and our Spring Conference was due to the many dedicated

volunteers who each took a share of the load and made an enormous undertaking much easier. If we each volunteer a little time and do a small share of the work, we all benefit from the success.

Please start thinking about what you can offer your professional organization. It can be as little as a donation to next year's Silent Auction. Perhaps you can offer your time, energy and expertise for our next conference. Even if you think you don't have "expertise" to offer, you will learn "expertise" by volunteering your service. For example, I have never done anything like a Silent Auction before. I have never had to ask for donations from businesses or my fellow school nurses. Initially my experience was overwhelming, intimidating and very humbling. As the Silent Auction was starting to come together, I felt excited and energized at what we were accomplishing. I learned so much from this experience and I gained confidence that will help me with future volunteering efforts.

My learning curve will continue its steep climb next year as I will be your new ASNA President! Although I cautiously look forward to my new journey, I keep reminding myself that it is another learning experience just as the Silent Auction was. I am feeling a bit overwhelmed and intimidated at the duties of the President. However, I am glad to serve ASNA and wonder what new adventures are ahead of us. Thank you for all your support and see you next year. I hope we all have a SUNNY summer!

Luanne Fogels, RN

From the Director

I've been honored to represent ASNA as your NASN director for over 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. As I prepare to end my term, I want to update members on what is currently happening at NASN, and what I believe we should consider as we plan for the future of our organization at the state level.

NASN is stronger than ever, despite the recent worldwide economic situation. We are fiscally sound, and NASN leaders and staff are very carefully working and planning so that we can weather the economic hard times that are affecting all of us. NASN has streamlined all operations to give members maximum value for their membership, while continuing to work for children and the school nurses that serve them in advocacy, leadership, and research. NASN is working harder than ever to secure grants, increase membership, and provide high quality, low, or no-cost on-line and "live" CE to members, while continuing to produce outstanding publications.

NASN's Endowment Fund, created to assist members with education and research opportunities, has experienced some recent economic losses (as have other endowment funds around the country). But NASN is committed to reaching its endowment goal of a million dollars, and continues its active fundraising among both corporate and private donors. It needs our support more than ever.

The NASN Annual Conference in Boston promises to be well attended and better than ever! What a great destination for Alaskans! The agenda and topics look great! Join us there!

I have learned so much from my time as your NASN Director! I feel that I have been taught about excellence in a non-profit organization by NASN's example, and it is clear that NASN is sincerely committed to strengthening state affiliates in all ways. They gently and skillfully mentor and teach State Directors to represent and help lead their affiliates, as well as advocate for school children and school nurses nationwide.

One of the most important lessons that I have learned from my NASN Board experience has been to build relationships and partnerships with other groups or organizations with like goals and interests. I have found that often people I have met or worked with years ago have often become invaluable partners towards achieving common goals. Sometimes a meeting that might not seem significant initially can have great significance later. I have been lucky to meet people over the past few years in my NASN/ASNA work that have become important allies to school nursing in Alaska!

Through my contact with the Alaska Board of Nursing while representing ASNA, I have learned invaluable information that we all should know about the statutes by which

we practice, and I also learned that by participating in the process, we could effect change and collaborate with those who regulate our professional nursing practice. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to participate!

I have had the privilege to represent ASNA and NASN in Washington DC in meetings with our Congressional Delegation. If I had been told ten years ago that I might visit with Senators and Congressmen, I wouldn't have believed it! I found that democracy really works, and that they welcomed NASN members' expertise and information about school health and school nursing!

I have been proud to be a part of a very active and committed ASNA Board, and each officer has contributed so much to ASNA! I hope that we can build on recent accomplishments and continue to get stronger in many ways.

The recent hiring of Mary Bell, of Homer, as Alaska's first State School Nurse Consultant begins an exciting new time for our profession in Alaska! Mary, a long time ASNA member, will bring much needed school nursing clinical expertise and perspective to HHS, and will provide guidance and leadership to practicing school nurses, school districts without school nurses, and to all who are concerned with school health in Alaska. We all look forward to working with you, Mary!

This is my "wish list" for ASNA in the future:

- That ASNA will do strategic planning, and create budgets annually
- That ASNA will continue to get fiscally stronger
- That ASNA will continue to seek grant funding as appropriate
- That ASNA will reach out to all Alaska professional nurses serving schools
- That ASNA will work closely with our new State School Nurse Consultant
- That ASNA will continue to strengthen its affiliate relationship with AaNA through increased collaboration
- That ASNA will increase advocacy efforts in Alaska children's health
- That ASNA will increase it's visibility in Alaska communities
- That ASNA will frequently survey members about their needs and views
- That ASNA leaders and members will regularly re-evaluate past and present practices
- That our ASNA Board will continue to develop policies and procedures aligned with our Bylaws
- That ASNA continues to promote NCSN Certification among Alaska School nurses

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Alaska's NASN Director. I feel that I have received so much more, both personally and professionally, than I have given!

I want to congratulate and welcome Patty Barker as your new NASN Director! Patty has been an active member of ASNA for many years. Her years of experience and leadership as an officer on our ASNA Board make her highly qualified to represent us at NASN, and I'm proud to have served with her and to call her my friend.

I also want to congratulate **Becky Hansen** as our **new Vice President** of ASNA, and **Luann Fogel** as our **new ASNA President!** They both bring energy, commitment, and fresh ideas to the ASNA Board, and I know that they will help our organization to grow, both in numbers and achievements!

Respectfully,
Chris VanCleve, RN, NBCSN

**Your New ASNA Board Members
2009/2010**

President: Luann Fogels
Vice President: Becky Hansen
Treasurer: Annette Johansen
Secretary: Jennifer Cottle
NASN Director: Patty Barker

Congratulations!!!!

From the Treasurer

Greetings from your ASNA Treasurer, I cannot believe it is already April and yes we still have snow! I wanted to give members an update on the ASNA 2009 spring conference. We had a total of 81 participants on Friday and 87 on Saturday. Twelve prepaid nurses were unable to attend the conference and 11 of those nurses were due to flight cancellations from Mt. Redoubt's volcanic eruptions. We gave 12 refunds at 75% of the conference fee, and kept 25% to pay for administrative fees for the planned participation cost. The board will create a refund policy to be reviewed for future events. We collected \$13,800 from participants and expenses were \$9,788.76, with an addition of \$1,046.25 for refunds, which totaled \$10,835.01 in expenses. Therefore, we earned \$2,964.89 from the conference for our ASNA future expenses.

The silent auction was very successful this year due to our auction committee. ASNA received \$2,079.75 in donations from the auction items, so with the combination of the conference earnings and the silent auction there was a total income of \$5,044.64. The annual spring conference is ASNA's only revenue received for the year to pay for our Director and President's travel expenses, office/postage expenses, lobbying and affiliate expenses and miscellaneous.

We played split the pot for our NASN endowment fund and collected \$234. The pot was split with ticket winner Chris

Chris Vancleve from Matsu and \$117 will be sent to NASN endowment fund. We also sold 45 vests, which were ordered on April 1, 2009. Your new vest(s) will be sent to you upon arrival. Orders from out of town will be sent via insured and return receipt mail, postage may increase on future orders due to the new mailing procedure, not to mention that the U.S. postage goes up again in May.

We had great speakers who gave great presentations. We received power point, PDF and word presentations from the speakers, after the conference per nurses' request, who did not have their notes printed for the conference folder and they were sent via email. If anyone did not receive them let me know.

If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at aknurse62@aol.com. Have a healthy and safe summer and see you next school year.

Sincerely,
Annette Johansen, RN M.Ed., NCSN
ASNA Treasurer

2008-2009 ASNA Executive Board



ALL AT THE ASNA SPRING CONFERENCE
HAD A WONDERFUL TIME!



HONORING CHRIS VANCLEVE
FOR HER SERVICE AS NASN
DIRECTOR.



ASNA SPRING CONFERENCE
PLANNERS: PATTY BARKER, KATHY
BELL AND GAIL WHITE



ALASKA SCHOOL NURSE CONSULTANT:
MARY FERGUSON-BELL, AND
STEPHANIE BIRCH FROM THE
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.



ABOVE: NURSES FROM THE FAIRBANKS SCHOOL
DISTRICT. BELOW: NURSES FROM THE MAT-SU
SCHOOL DISTRICT



2008-2009 ASNA Board

President: Patricia Barker, RN
barker_patricia@asdk12.org

Vice President: Luann Fogels, RN
fogels_luann@asdk12.org

Director: Chris VanCleve, RN
Christina.Vancleve@matsuk12.us

Treasurer: Annette Johansen, RN
johansen_annette@asdk12.org

Secretary: Jennifer Cottle, RN
cottle_jennifer@asdk12.org

ASNA is a non-profit organization affiliated with AaNA. The mission is to support school nurses and school nursing within Alaska

